

death of tigers in Nandankanan Zoo, these instructions have been again reiterated for necessary action.

Depletion of Forest Cover at Similipal Tiger Project

2817. SHRI. BIRABHADRA SINGH:

SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study about the depletion of forest cover at Similipal Tiger Project in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa in the recent years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the depletion;

(c) what long-term and short-term steps Government propose to take to arrest this depletion; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the various steps taken for the wellbeing of the Tiger Project, in view of the unnatural death of tigers in Nandankanan Zoo of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) According to the report received from Orissa Government there is no depletion of forest cover at Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Preventive measure against spread of Trypanosomiasis in wild tigers, include regular monitoring of the health of the livestock in and around the Similipal Tiger Reserve and exclusion of animals that are found positive.

Rising pollution in metropolitan cities

†2818. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution is increasing rapidly in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai in the country;

(b) the level of air pollution in each of the cities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.